SIDNEY HYRUM AND MARY JANE ROBEY EPPERSON

Sidney Hyrum Epperson was born December 31, 1832 in Montgomery County, Indiana, a son of Elias and Nancy Lunica Dalton Epperson. He married Mary Jane Robey in 1853. Died June 1, 1913 in Midway.

Mary Jane Robey Epperson was born April 28, 1836 in Harrison County, West Virginia, a daughter of Jeremiah and Ruth Tucker Robey. She died May 15, 1915 in Midway.

In 1837 the Epperson family moved to Lipton, Iowa, where they settled on a quarter section making a new home.

In 1852 they had the urge to move further west. They purchased a farm on Honey Creek which was then being rapidly populated by the Latter-day Saints who were preparing for their exodus west to follow the main company who had earlier preceded them.

It was in Council Bluffs, Iowa where the Eppersons first heard the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. Some of them became converts and had a desire to go to the Rocky Mountains with migrating saints, among them Sidney H. Epperson, his sister, Martha, and her husband, Henry Busenbark. They made the trek across the plains with Captain Wood's Company. They arrived in Salt Lake where they stayed but a short time, then moved on to Provo where they settled for a few years.

In 1853 Sidney H. Epperson married Mary Jane Robey, a beautiful girl from "Old Virginny" whom he met while crossing the plains. They had a family of 13 children.

His early life had prepared him for rugged pioneer life which he experienced as he built his home in Provo. Some years the crops were good, other times they were destroyed by grasshoppers and crickets. Their greatest trouble was the Indians who stole their cattle and mules and pillaged their farms. They were undaunted in their faith and courage.

Sidney became a member of the Utah Militia and was appointed Captain of the Provo Cavalry and was later commissioned Major of the U.S. Government, of Indian War Veterans. He was an outpost bodyguard of Brigham Young.

In April of 1859 he decided to move north with a group of other families, Jeremiah Robey, Mark Smith, David Wood and Jesse McCarrol. They settled on the west banks of a stream called Snake Creek by a cottonwood grove on the west side of the valley.

At a meeting held June 26, 1862 Sidney H. Epperson was appointed Presiding Elder of the upper settlement with John Fausett, first, and Samuel Thompson, second counselors. This was his first calling to labor in the Church.

He was a man of faith and courage and felt the responsibility of leadership and unity of his group of people. They were all busily engaged in grubbing willows and sage brush, breaking land and making irrigation ditches, constructing roads, digging dugways to the canyons for fire wood, blasting rock and bridging streams. They worked hard six days a week, but rested on the Sabbath day and went to church to worship their God.

When the two settlements were forced to move together for protection from the Indians, Sidney H. Epperson helped make the survey for the new townsite.

He was appointed by Jos. Murdock to preside over the Midway Ward until April 10, 1870 when he was released.

Within a short time the log houses around the public square were removed. Sidney Epperson finished his new home of lumber in the late Autumn of 1872, and it is still standing, a monument to this worthy pioneer.

Mary Jane Robey Epperson came to Utah with her parents in August, 1852, settling in Provo, Utah. She remembered very distinctly many of the incidents of Nauvoo, such as the martyrdom of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, whom she saw many times during their life, and also after their death. She used to accompany her brother, Theophilus, to the temple where their father was working, to take his dinner to him. She was quite young when she crossed the plains, and remembered many of the amusing, as well as the pathetic incidents in their long journey to the West.

In 1853 she was married to Sidney H. Epperson, by whom she had 13 children, ten sons and three daughters. In 1859 they came to Midway among the first to settle in this valley. She was chosen as the President of the first Relief Society organized in Midway, and held that position for a number of years. She was always a friend to the poor and needy and her home was open to any who happened her way, and who was hungry or weary. She had a very cheerful, congenial disposition and had many friends.

She was an industrious, hard-working woman. She helped care for the sick. She was a most devoted mother to her children, always willing to do and sacrifice for their comfort. She died after a brief illness, and was mourned as a loving mother, a kind friend, and a good neighbor. She was always faithful and true to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and died as she had lived, a true Latter-day Saint.

Children of Sidney and Mary Jane Epperson were:

Signey Theophelus married Eliza Van Wagenen

Charles Alonzo married Elizabeth B. Coleman

Mary Laverna Epperson married Dean Forrest later John Baum

Jeremiah Albert, single

Tipton Elias married Mary Jane Bonner

Viola Delphina married Adelbert Alexander

Robert Ross married Bertha Drew Springer

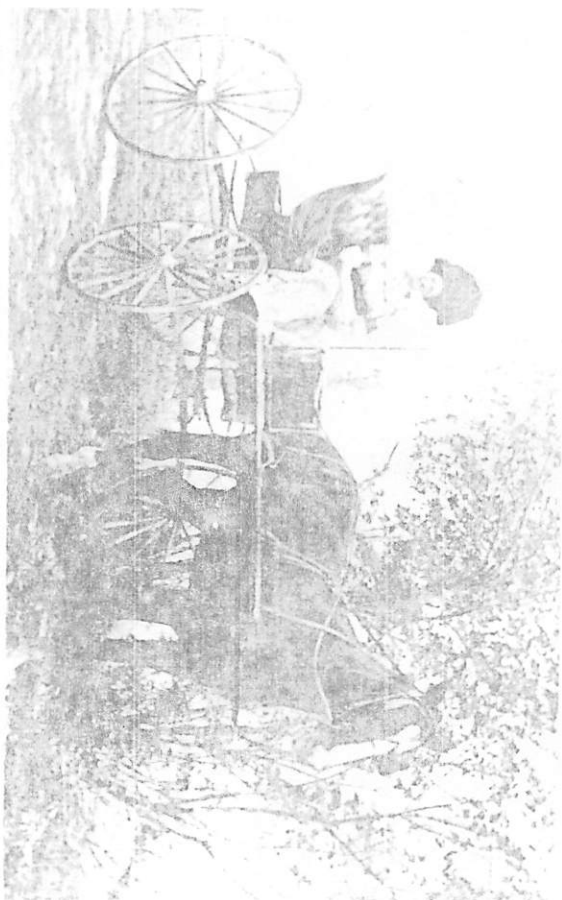
William Henry married Katherine Bunnell

Simon Shelby married Lydia Melissa Smith

Daniel David, single

Ruth Lenica married William Mathews, later James McNaughton

Frank Sherman married Ada Mohlman, later Laverna Horrocks

Elmer Drew married Maud Barker, later Mae Davis.

In high style for her day is Mrs. Simon Epperson shown here with the popular [illegible] "Skipper" known throughout Wasatch County. She is seated in a [illegible] husband's livery stable. The photograph was taken in 1911.

SALOONS AND TAVERNS

Saloons and taverns for the convenience of miners in the Midway area were operated during the mining era, but quickly faded from the picture with the beginning of prohibition. The establishments were mostly of the "movie variety"—hard liquor sold over a bar and disputes settled with six guns. Pool tables and cards were featured although dance hall girls were prohibited. In recent years there have been a few billiard and pool halls operated.

POWER PLANTS

Two major power plants have been operated in the Midway area in addition to the Heber Light and Power Company in which Midway owns one-eighth interest. The first plant was developed in Snake Creek Canyon near the turn of the Century by President Joseph R. Murdock.

Realizing the potential of electric power, Pres. Murdock, along with several others took an option on property owned by Bishop Jacob Probst at the mouth of Snake Creek Canyon. During 1907 and 1908 they surveyed several possible plant sites, and finally chose one that they felt would best utilize water flow out of the canyon. Work was begun under the direction of Bishop Probst, with John H. (Jack) Buehler, John A. Sulser, Samuel (Sam) Ritchie and Gottlieb Buehler employed for the project.

Even though this venture failed, the idea persisted, and Jesse Knight

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"Wasatch" 1913

Simon Shelby Epperson

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SIMON SHELBY AND LYDIA SMITH EPPERSON

Simon Shelby Epperson was born in Midway, January 12, 1871, the seventh son of Sidney Hiram and Mary Jane Robey Epperson. He married Lydia Melissa Smith April 4, 1890, at the Smith Grove in Midway. The marriage was later solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple. He died December 29, 1950, in Salt Lake City and is buried in Midway.

Lydia Melissa Smith Epperson was born in Midway August 2, 1873, the eighth child of Benjamin Mark and Elizabeth Agness

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In high style for her day is Mrs. Simon Epperson shown here with the popular horse "Skipper" known throughout Wasatch County. She is seated in a buggy from her husband's livery stable. The photograph was taken in 1911.

Wood Smith. She died May 4, 1956 in Salt Lake City and is buried in Midway.

Simon graduated from the old Brigham Young Academy in Provo in 1892 and taught school in Midway seven years. He also served as secretary of the Midway Town Corporation and secretary of the Midway Waterworks and Irrigation Company. He was part owner of the Midway Drug Company and owned and operated the Midway Livery Stable. He was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served as ward clerk and chorister of the Midway First Ward under Bishop Coleman for seven years. He worked also in the Sunday School and YMMIA.

From 1906 to 1919 Mr. Epperson served as branch manager of the Studebaker Corporation in Heber. He was Sunday School chorister of the Second Ward, a member of the Sunday School Union Board and second counselor to David A. Broadbent when religion classes were first organized in the stakes. Moved to Silver City in 1919 where he was associated with the Iron Blossom Mining Company and Knight's Investment Company. He was first counselor to Bishop Jesse Haws and ward chorister. In 1924 he moved his family to Pioche, Nevada, where he was bookkeeper and assayer for the Bristol Silver Mining Company. Moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1926 and became associated with the Park Utah Consolidated Mining Company and later the original Utah Woolen Mills. He was an active member of the High Priest Quorum in Marlborough Ward.

Though he traveled far from the place of his birth, his spirit always remained in the Wasatch Valley.

Lydia was an active member of the Church all her life. She came from a musical family and sang in the choir of every ward she lived in. She was a counselor in the YWMIA in the Midway and Heber

Wards where she also worked in the Relief Society for twenty years. When the family moved to Silver City in May 1919 she was again active in church and civic affairs. She was called as counselor in the YWMIA and also taught Sunday School and religion classes. In Salt Lake Lydia was called to YWMIA and Relief Society work in the Fourteenth Ward and later in the Hawthorne and Marlborough Wards. She was a visiting teacher until ill health forced her to give up all of her activities and confined her to her home.

Children of Simon and Lydia Epperson included:

Jennie Agness, married Alvah A. Ross;
Vida Lydia, died in youth;
Simon Doyle, married Margaret Ellen Murdock;
Edith Rosedale, died in youth;
Juanita, died in infancy;
Erma Lavella, married Joel D. Hickman;
Frank Ross, married Cora H. Farmer;
Lillian Estelle;
Victor Robey, married Nellie Hachmeister.

ask Eddie Epperson
ask Ray Anderson's dau who md Blain Anderson Epperson
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